



True Name

by Xin Wang

I stiffened, gasping, as the smell of warm blood and flesh washed over me... against my will, I sank to one knee before the man who had materialized; my head bowed, unable to resist his authority. “Master...”

I stared at her, so startled that my rage stuttered and melted away before I even realized it. Laughable, that this tiny figure could have so easily defused my simmering temper

“Why do you deny your human side so, Rash? Why do you embrace only the demonic part of your bloodline?”

The tainted, bloody gleam of the web cast a sickly light onto her features, so different from when I saw her last, the sunshine playing off those golden curls... suddenly with that memory came another— her words, spoken with the quiet steel that formed the center of her being; *“There is more human in you than demon, Rash.”*

For the first time in my life, I turned inward and reached, not for the bloodlust or the rage or the hunger of the demon within, but for the human part of me which I had always repressed